



MONTGOMERY COUNTY COUNCIL
ROCKVILLE, MARYLAND

ROGER BERLINER
COUNCILMEMBER
DISTRICT 1

July 27, 2010

Mr. Neil Pedersen
Administrator
Maryland State Highway Administration
PO Box 717
Baltimore, MD 21203-0717

Dear Administrator Pedersen:

Thank you for the many hours you and your staff have worked to make the improvements around the revamped National Navy Medical Center in Bethesda, Maryland a hoped for success. I realize this has been a very difficult challenge given the federal, state and local competing and over lapping jurisdictions and the lack of certainty for funding for these improvements.

There have been many many hours of public and private meetings, numerous phone calls and much cooperation prior to the consideration of the proposed intersection improvements before the Montgomery County Planning Board last week. Much of the deliberations before the Board last week centered upon the Connecticut Avenue and Jones Bridge Road intersection. Earlier this year, members of the Chevy Chase Valley community asked for help with ingress and egress for their community with the proposed improvements to Connecticut Avenue in mind.

As a result, the County funded the Spring Valley Traffic Study that was completed in June 2010. The study's recommendations call for a traffic signal at Jones Bridge Road and Spring Valley Road as an interim measure anticipating the BRAC improvements designed by your agency. Further, the study describes as the operationally best option to be the construction of an extended Platt Ridge Drive. Other options were considered as a part of this study.

During last weeks' considerations, our staffs conferred on the possibility that BRAC designated monies could be used in the event that the Platt Ridge Road option becomes viable. We are early in this review process and need more consideration of community views as well as a concurrence from the Montgomery County Department of Parks as their land would be impacted for this possible solution.

Given the timing of the BRAC intersection improvement construction schedule, my understanding is that when monies are available they will be allocated for these projects. I was gratified that your staff indicated a willingness to include the possible Platt Ridge Road project for funding under BRAC. I am hoping you will set aside \$2 million when funds become available so that this project can proceed with funding if and

when the solution is embraced. I understand this set side would not be forever but, at this time, it would be appropriate for the community to understand that their concerns are being addressed on equal footing with all intersection impacts.

Thank you for your consideration of my request.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Roger Berliner". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Roger" and last name "Berliner" clearly distinguishable.

Roger Berliner
Councilmember
District 1